



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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COMMISSIONER

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Dear Provider:

The Newborn Screening Program is expanding services in Texas. As funding allows, House Bill 790 (79th Legislative Session) requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to begin screening for additional disorders as recommended by the American College of Medical Genetics. Beginning in early 2007, DSHS will screen for 27 disorders, 20 more than are currently screened.

Effective November 1, 2006, the cost of a newborn screening specimen kit will increase from \$19.50 to \$29.50. This increase will cover the investment in laboratory resources for the new tests and will expand and enhance the program's case management/follow-up component.

DSHS is committed to assisting healthcare providers during the expansion of the newborn screening program. The following resources are currently available or will be available this fall:

- Frequently asked questions regarding the expansion of the program can be located at: <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/nbsrfp/default.shtm>
- Onsite training is available upon request
- New and updated information sheets to guide providers in discussing newborn screening and to guide providers who have patients with abnormal screens (October 2006)
- Online continuing education credit courses on newborn screening and the expansion (October 2006)
- Additional questions can be e-mailed to: Newborn@dshs.state.tx.us

DSHS will continue to communicate with you as the program expansion unfolds. Thank you for your help caring for the infants in Texas.

Sincerely,

Jann Melton-Kissel , RN, MBA
Director, Specialized Health Service Section

Susan U. Neill, Ph.D., M.B.A.
Director, Laboratory Services Section